

MMDA to reopen EDSA U-turn slot

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Following the House probe on the closure of U-turn slots along EDSA, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday confirmed that it will reopen a U-turn slot this Friday.

Jojo Garcia, MMDA general manager, told the House Committee on Metro Manila Development that the U-turn slot in front of Quezon City Academy on EDSA will be reopened on the said day.

Garcia said the agency arrived at this decision in coordination with the Quezon City government, as its residents were the ones suffering from the major traffic jams along EDSA. The closure of the U-turn slots, he noted, is part of the EDSA Busway Project that exclusively designates the innermost lane of EDSA to commuter buses.

The probe arose after hearing numerous complaints from motorists and the Quezon city government on the closure of many U-turn slots on EDSA, including the proposed busonly flyover project, by MMDA, which was perceived to have worsened the traffic condition in the area.

Manila (1st Dist.) Rep. Manuel Luis “Manny” Lopez, the panel’s chair, also mentioned the proposal of the Quezon City local government to reopen or regulate the U-turn slots in EDSA, noting that there are buses not following the intended “carousel lane.”

“The traffic problem on EDSA has been a perennial one. It seems that this problem has now been compounded by the closure of U-turn slots. As we near the Christmas week, we will not be surprised if the problem worsens,” Lopez said, as he eyed passing a resolution concerning this.

“Traffic and delays in this major thoroughfare spill over to most other roads in the metropolis. With traffic in all areas affected, precious time is lost. The irrecoverable time of our people and economic losses, which if quantified, will surely be substantial,” he added.

Quezon City Reps. Anthony “Onyx” Crisologo, Jose Christopher “Kit” Belmonte and Jesus “Bong” Suntay welcomed MMDA’s solution to address the bottlenecks in the major thoroughfare.

Crisologo shared during the hearing that a huge volume of vehicles gets clogged up from the North Avenue area to Balintawak from the time the U-turn slots in Trinoma, Quezon City Academy, Panorama and Dario River were closed.

Although the panel welcomes the recent development in the problematic closure of U-turn slots along EDSA, Lopez, nevertheless, aims to come up with long-term and effective solutions concerning EDSA roads.